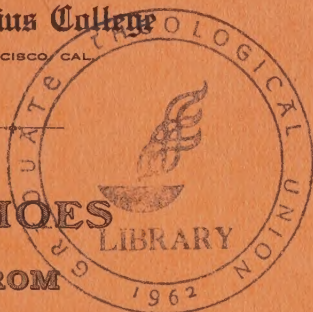


St. Ignatius College

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

ECHÔES

FROM



Father Culligan's Jubilee

Celebrated at St. Ignatius

Sunday, August 7th, 1927

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1877 = "Thou shalt sanctify the fiftieth year;—
for it is the jubilee year." Levit. 25, 10 = 1927

THE MASS

Rarely has our beautiful St. Ignatius Church presented such a colorfully festive appearance as it did on the occasion of Father Culligan's Golden Jubilee. The altar bowed in golden chrysanthemums from the midst of which there rose, as if by magic, a hundred flickering lights, the purple of the assistant Bishop and Monsignori, the red-cassocked sanctuary boys moving in rhythmic order through tenuous clouds of incense — it was all as stirring an appeal to the eye as was the musical program artistically rendered to the ear.

In the sanctuary the Right Reverend Patrick Keane, Bishop of Sacramento, occupied the throne beneath a canopy of white silk fringed with gold. He was attended by the Right Reverend M. D. Connolly, and the Right Reverend Charles Ramm. The secular and religious clergy were well represented; but as was natural, Father Culligan's brother Jesuits, from St. Ignatius, Santa Clara and San Jose, were in the majority. It was an interesting gathering: There were Fathers Sasia and Raggio — both octogenarians, the latter one of Father Culligan's professors more than half a century ago. There were Fathers Woods and Nestor, fellow novices of Father Culligan, and Father Foote, the deacon of the Mass, a fellow pupil in old St. Ignatius on Jessie Street. Father Buckley, the sub-

deacon, had been taught by Father Culligan, and the assistant priest, Father Edward Whelan, Rector of St. Ignatius, belonged to the generation taught by Father Buckley.

The Jubilee sermon, preached by Father Kavanagh, was a masterpiece of pulpit oratory which held the large congregation spell-bound for a little more than half an hour. Never was the gifted speaker more noticeably inspired.

"Many sentiments arise in the human heart on an occasion like this", he said, in part. "That which ought to predominate is one of thanksgiving to Almighty God, for if it is an *admirable* thing to spend half a century in the service of God and of man, if it is an *heroic* thing to forsake the world and all that the world holds dear, if it is a degree of Christian perfection that lifts one above the ordinary plane of religious seriousness, — to God alone is due the glory and the praise. 'Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy Name give glory' is, I am sure, the Jubilee prayer of Father Culligan today. For what he meditated upon in the long ago he hears in his inmost being today: 'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you'.

"Still, while such recognition of the power of Divine Grace must top all other sentiments, it need not displace them. Half a century in the Society of Jesus, devoted exclusively to the salvation of one's own soul and the

souls of one's neighbors ; with no remuneration other than the consciousness of trying to serve God and to help, both spiritually and temporally, the children of God ; with no fixed home, no choice of personally preferred labors, no hope of advancement except with God's grace, in the virtues required of his spiritual sons by St. Ignatius of Loyola — such an event is provocative of Jubilee rejoicing."

These two notes — thanksgiving and joy — rang through the entire discourse which was a beautiful exposition of the meaning of religious life in general and more particularly of religious life in the Society of Jesus.

At the close of the speech, Father Kavanagh turned to the Jubilarian and addressed him in the name of his many friends in San Jose, Santa Clara, Seattle and San Francisco. On the occasion of Father Culligan's Silver Jubilee some one expressed, in beautiful verse, the hope that he would be preserved in God's service until "the silver turns to radiant gold". Father Kavanagh adapted a stanza to suit another hope —

"Loyola's son, may this your Jubilee

The full fruition of the word unfold,

And graces multiply on life's long way

Till sparkling diamonds deck the glittering gold."

THE BANQUET

After the church services the clergy and laity assembled in the community dining room for the Jubilee banquet. The after dinner speeches were made by Rev. Edward Whelan, President of St. Ignatius College, Mr. Eugene Beauce, a fellow pupil of Father Culligan in old St. Ignatius, by the Reverend Jubilarian himself, and by Bishop Keane of the Sacramento diocese.

Father Whelan's address was an enthusiastic tribute to the tireless activity and unqualified success of Father Culligan as a Parish Priest, a Director of Souls, an Executive and Financier. "To him", he said, "we owe not only the erection of the new College building, but the still more comforting facts that thus far all bills have been paid and that the future bills will be paid when the building is completed." As a testimony of his gratitude the Reverend President announced that the most attractive feature of the new College will be known as the William H. Culligan Memorial Library. Having thus spoken of Father Culligan's present activities and of the honor conferred on him for the future, Father President called upon Mr. Eugene Beauce to tell something of old college days. The speaker brought his listeners back to by-gone days and told many interesting anecdotes about St. Ignatius boys fifty years ago.

Most felicitous were the remarks of Father Culligan himself. He spoke first of the Two Standards of St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises, how the enemy of souls leads one first to desire money, then to seek honors and finally to all manner of pride. He referred to what had been said about his success in acquiring money and to the honors that were being heaped on him after his first fifty years and expressed a fear that he might be tempted towards the third source of evil — pride; but he took comfort in the fact that he could repeat, in all sincerity, the words which Father Kavanagh used in his sermon: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy Name give glory." He sought money, it is true, but only for the service of God and the salvation of souls. He sought honor too, but God's honor who as He had called him to this kind of life, so in His Mercy, kept him in the same.

Bishop Keane's address was a glowing eulogy of the Jesuit Fathers. What he admired most about the Jubilarian was his youth. "But", his Lordship added: "Jesuits never grow old. Look at Father Sasia over there, 84 years of age, and still possessed of a vigorous right hand that wields the sledge-hammer pen against heretics and infidels. And there is Father Raggio, 83 years of age, assistant Pastor of a large parish and Chaplain of one of our largest State hospitals. Think, too, of Father Ricard, 77 years of age, who is still active in observing sun spots

and regulating weather from Vancouver to Florida.”

And so, the Bishop concluded, he was able to share the hope expressed by Father Kavanagh that the diamonds of seventy-five years of service will follow the gold of fifty.

Perhaps the most pleasing part of the Jubilee festivities was the receipt of felicitations from all parts of the world. From the Vatican there came the following cablegram:

“ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR GOLDEN JUBILEE IN RELIGION, THE HOLY FATHER GRANTS YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY THE APOSTOLIC BLESSING.”

(Signed) CARDINAL GASPARRI.

From the Roman Curia of the Society of Jesus, was received the following letter:

“My Dear Father Culligan,

P. C.

“It is a great pleasure for me to send you this message of greeting and congratulation on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of your Religious Life which you are about to celebrate. I am doing so in the first place in the name of Very Rev. Father General. His Paternity in the midst of his many duties never fails to salute our Veterans who are completing their Fiftieth Year in the service of the Society. And now that your turn has come, he wishes to share with you the happiness of your Golden

Anniversary, and to thank God for the countless blessings which this half century has brought to yourself and to others through your instrumentality. As a token of his interest and fatherly affection, he offers you, together with his special blessing, a Jubilee gift of fifty Masses which he will apply for your intentions. And he adds the hope and prayer that you may be spared many more years of useful work in the militant Society.

"I am anxious to join my own heartfelt wishes and felicitations to those of his Paternity and of your many friends, and to greet you on your Jubilee Day as if I were celebrating it with you in person. I make my own all the nice things that will be said and sung in your honor, and all the prayers that will be offered for your spiritual and temporal welfare. *Ad Multos Annos!*

"I remain,

"Your Reverence's Servant in Christ,

(Signed) "E. Mattern, C. J."

From the Most Reverend Edward J. Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco, came an expression of regret that he was not able to return in time to officiate and preach the sermon on the occasion. The Right Reverend John J. Cantwell, Bishop of Los Angeles and Monterey, and the Right Reverend Edward J. O'Dea, Bishop of Seattle, and the Right Reverend John B. McGinley, Bishop of Fresno, were among the many who sent in

messages of felicitation to the Jubilarian.

From Very Reverend Joseph M. Piet, Provincial of the Western Jesuits, the following beautiful sentiments were received. They form an apt conclusion to this little article.

“REV. WILLIAM H. CULLIGAN,

“FIFTY YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE, YEARS OF RELENTLESS TOIL, YEARS OF NOBLE DEEDS, I CONGRATULATE YOU, DEAR FATHER CULLIGAN, ON YOUR GOLDEN JUBILEE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND LOVE YOU ALWAYS. MAY YOU REAP ABUNDANTLY OF THE DIVINE HARVEST FOR MANY MORE YEARS. ALL IN PORTLAND JOIN IN WHOLE-HEARTED FELICITATION.

“JOSEPH M. PIET.”

OFFICIATING AT THE MASS:

Celebrant, REV. W. H. CULLIGAN, S. J.

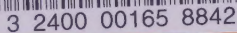
Deacon, REV. P. J. FOOTE, S. J.

Sub-Deacon, REV. C. A. BUCKLEY, S. J.

Assistant-Priest, V. REV. E. J. WHELAN, S. J.

Master of Ceremonies, REV. W. P. SULLIVAN,
of St. Mary's Cathedral.

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1958

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4. Items are subject to recall.

